Review of Electricity Acts

3813. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Power has recently taken any decision in principle to exempt power projects below Rs. 1,000 crore from the purview of CEA and as well as review the Electricity Acts of 1910 and 1948, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 25.8.1996;

(b) If so, the details thereof including outcome of discussion the Power Minister held with IPPI Group of Independent Power Producers Association of India in this regard; and

(c) by when a new hydro power policy, power transmission policy and the Tariff formulation Report are likely to be made public by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to raise the project cost limit for power generation projects by generating companies awarded on the basis of competitive bidding to Rs. 1000 crore, for the purpose of requirement of Central Electricity Authority (CEA)'s Techno-economic clearance. There is no proposal to review the Electricity Acts of 1910 and 1948 in this regard. The necessary notification relating to the above decision is under process for issue.

The Government, while reviewing the policy from time to time, would take into account the suggestion of M/s. IPPAI.

(c) The Government, while reviewing it's power policy from time to time to adjust the policy to the changing needs of the power sector, would also include any new policy initiative on hydro power, transmission and tariff.

Power Generation in Orissa

3814. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual generation of power through various sources in Orissa at present;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the Power generation through these sources during remaining period of 8th Five Year Plan and the 9th Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the projections made in this regard; and

(d) the details of efforts made by Government to implement the programme for power generation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) During the year 1995-96, the energy generation in Orissa was 7437 MU comprising of 3035 MU thermal and 4382 MU Hydro Power.

(b) to (d) Capacity in Orissa as on 31st March, 1996 stood at 1550 MW comprising of 1420 MW thermal and 130 MW Hydro. No more projects are coming up on Orissa during the current year which is the last year of the 8th Plan. Several ongoing power projects viz. Upper-Indravati (600MW), Potteru (6 MW), Balimela Extension (120 MW), Bargarth Canal (9 MW) and Ib Valley TPP, Phase II (420 MW), in Orissa are likely to be commissioned during the 9th Plan. Besides, CEA has accorded in principle clearance to 4 private sector schemes aggregating to a capacity of 2000 MW for likely benefits during the 9th Plan period. The commissioning of these projects would increase the power generation in Orissa considerably.